



## December 31, 2008 -- Rahm Emanuel: Is he the "Roy Cohn" of the Democratic Party?

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Experienced Democratic Party field operatives from a number of states have told WMR on background that Barack Obama's incoming Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel displayed some unusual political biases while he was chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and during the last congressional election, for which he continued to wield significant power over the purse string the hopeful Democratic candidates.

WMR has previously reported how Emanuel withheld funding for Democratic candidates considered too liberal or too anti-Iraq war.

We have now learned that Emanuel withheld critical support to California 46th Democratic congressional candidate Debbie Cook who was challenging Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher. WMR has learned that Emanuel is content not to challenge Republican incumbents whose sexual orientation has been an issue.

Similarly, Emanuel offered support to Democrat Tim Mahoney who ran for the House Florida 16th House seat in 2006 after Republican Mark Foley stepped down after he was charged with sending lewd e-mails to underage male congressional pages. However, Mahoney, who was discovered to have paid off mistresses, was a flawed candidate. After news of Mahoney's scandal broke, the Democrats lost the Florida 16th seat to Republican Tom Rooney.

Emanuel's strong-armed tactics in congressional races across the nation have been likened to the arm-twisting of the late Republican insider Roy Cohn, chief counsel to Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy's Permanent Senate Subcommittee on Investigations. Cohn informally advised Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. *National Review* editor Jeffrey Hart referred to Cohn, a homosexual who died of AIDS in 1986, as "an ice-cold sleaze."

Parallels between Cohn and Emanuel, a former ballet dancer, are being drawn by some Democrats who expressed surprise that Emanuel tends to protect Republicans who are vulnerable to charges of hypocrisy over their stances on gay rights issues. There are whispers in Washington and around the country that a cross-party "lavender Mafia" is operating as a mutual protection society.

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